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December 26, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington DE 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala;

I understand that the FDA is considering weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food. This is of great concern to me, and I strongly urge you to support my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

Food products undergo cosmetic and nutritional changes when exposed to radioactive isotopes. Therefore, these foods should have clear disclosure of this fact, in a prominent place on the package. Food that is not packaged, such as vegetables, should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. The consumer must clear, truthful information to be able to make decisions about what foods to buy. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

I look forward to hearing from you that you support the consumer's right to know about irradiated foods.

Sincerely,

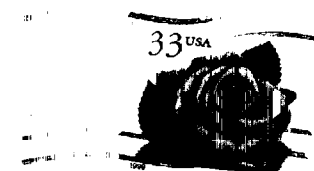


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